

the opioid epidemic: America is fighting back against this crisis. More help is on the way.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 302

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the House message to accompany H.R. 302, the majority leader or his designee be recognized to make a motion to concur in the House message to accompany H.R. 6, and that notwithstanding the previous order in relation to H.R. 6, the Senate vote on the motion to concur without further intervening action or debate at 3:15 p.m. today, all as in legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I am glad that the majority leader and I get along. I am glad we are able to do certain things together, like the opioid bill and the appropriations bill, but that cannot hold me back from responding to the blatant falsehoods he tells day after day after day on this floor.

First, from the man who singlehandedly delayed the filling of Justice Scalia's seat for 10 months to complain about a 1-week delay to get the truth—give me a break. It is classic, diversionary, blame-the-other-person tactics, when he himself is the master of delay. It is galling and appalling day after day to hear the majority leader get on his high horse about delay, when he almost invented the word when it comes to judicial nominations.

Second, he blames Democrats for the delay, which is about the most blatant falsehood I have heard uttered on the floor in a long time. The majority leader knows darn well that he has the sole power to determine when to put the Kavanaugh nomination on the floor. He could have done it 2 weeks ago. He could have done it last week. He is now insisting he will do it this week.

Democrats have no say. He talked about an agreement that caused a week's delay. Who was the agreement with? Three Republican Senators.

The majority leader knows—knows—that it was Republicans who caused him to delay, both for the FBI investigation and for Judge Kavanaugh and Dr. Ford to testify. He didn't have to do that. He had the power. He is to blame for the delay, but he couldn't do anything otherwise because his own Republicans insisted on it.

Again, it is a blatant falsehood. I am so tempted to use the L word, but he is

my friend. To say that Democrats caused the delay—Mr. Leader, assert your power to determine what is put on the floor, and be a man. Man up and say it is your decision, not ours. We have nothing to do with it.

Third, he says he is one of the most qualified nominees we have ever seen. We know what is going on here. Everyone—everyone—including the majority leader himself, knows that Kavanaugh is a deeply flawed candidate for a whole lot of reasons. Knowing that, the majority leader and the Republican majority have to divert attention from Kavanaugh. So they are focusing on people who did nothing wrong, like Senator FEINSTEIN, like the Judiciary Democratic minority, and like the Democratic Party.

It is outrageous, but they know that Kavanaugh is not very good, and they know his testimony hurt him across America. I was talking to a CEO, a Republican of a major company. He said his board was watching the debate, and every one of them changed their mind after seeing Kavanaugh testify. They said: This guy doesn't belong on the bench. We can do better. That is the overwhelming reaction of Americans.

Judge Kavanaugh hurt himself dramatically and permanently by his screed—his nasty, partisan screed. That is something of a new, unschooled, two-bit politician, not someone who wants to be on the Supreme Court of the United States.

He hurt himself. Leader MCCONNELL knows that. The Republican leadership knows it. Donald Trump knows it, but they have to get the focus off of Kavanaugh. So they come up with these straw men and women. They come up with these false innuendos, distortions, and dishonesty. It is not going to work. It is not going to work.

Now, let me turn to the President, and in the strongest possible terms, let me condemn the comments by President Trump last night about Dr. Ford. President Trump's outright mockery of a sexual assault survivor, riddled as it was with falsehoods, was reprehensible, beneath the office of the Presidency, and beneath common decency from one person to another. President Trump owes Dr. Ford an immediate apology.

For too long—far too long—survivors of sexual assaults have been afraid to come forward because they thought that powerful men would shout them down and destroy their character. The President of the United States, the most powerful man there is, confirmed those fears for millions of women in the most despicable way possible.

President Trump should send a message to the women of America right now that he is sorry for saying what he said about Dr. Blasey Ford and that survivors of sexual assault should not only be heard but treated with dignity and respect and compassion.

You don't have to believe everything Dr. Ford said—and I do—to refrain from the nasty and vicious attacks, riddled with lies, in sort of a moboc-

racy-type way, and yet Donald Trump shows no restraint and no regulator. He is the prime example of why the norms in America, regardless of politics and regardless of party, are declining, and we don't hear a peep out of my colleagues on the other side, with a few notable and noble exceptions.

He is ruining the norms of America. He is so degrading the way people treat each other. It is pathetic, and it does permanent damage to this Republic, unless his own party members or others close to him speak up.

Anyone who watched Dr. Blasey Ford saw a credible and courageous woman, who elected to relive the worst night of her life because she felt a civic duty to come forward. That action took immense courage.

She is not the first. It is not unusual anymore. We know thousands of women who were hurt and then afraid to come forward mainly because they thought they would be ridiculed and disbelieved, just as President Trump appallingly, despicably, and lowly did last night.

Dr. Ford's actions took courage. She is a woman who is far more honest than Donald Trump. She admitted that she was "terrified" to speak in public about her very private pain and trauma.

I have been disappointed by President Trump's comments before, but this is a new low. I repeat, President Trump should apologize immediately.

Now, what will my colleagues on the other side do? They will ignore President Trump's comments, sidestep President Trump's comments, and spend their time blaming Democrats, even though we had no say in the delay. The delay was through Republicans. We know what they will do. It is shameful.

The President is day by day tearing down the norms that have built this country up. We have had the greatest norms, the greatest character, and the greatest behavior of any Nation ever, but it is declining now because people of goodwill allow Trump to do it without criticizing him. It is about time they did. It is about time they did.

Now, shifting focus back to events here in Congress. We have to get back to reality and truth and focus on treating the Supreme Court nomination debate the right way. When all is said and done, this is about the nominee's credibility and temperament.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: There are many who say what happened when someone was 15 and 18 doesn't indicate their personality and what kind of person they are when they are 53.

Well, I believe Dr. Ford, and I believe what she said is very relevant. There are many who don't want to consider that, but there is an issue that should matter even to them, and that is the credibility and temperament of Judge Kavanaugh.

This is what he is at 53. If he can't tell the truth about previous encounters, engagements, behavior, and activity, which we have found over and over